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U.S. ECO ONLINE - ENERGY
A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON THE WEB

No 8 – December-January 2008

Annual Energy Outlook 2009

Energy Information Administration - December 17, 2008

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/aeo2009_presentation.pdf [21 pages].

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/pdf/appa.pdf> [41 pages, Tables]

The early release report presents updated projections for U.S. energy consumption and production through 2030. For the first time in more than 20 years, the new reference case projects virtually no growth in U.S. oil consumption, reflecting the combined effect of recently enacted CAFE standards, requirements for increased use of renewable fuels, and an assumed rebound in oil prices as the world economy recovers.

The President's Agenda on Energy & the Environment

http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/energy_and_environment/

"The energy challenges our country faces are severe and have gone unaddressed for far too long. Our addiction to foreign oil doesn't just undermine our national security and wreak havoc on our environment -- it cripples our economy and strains the budgets of working families all across America. President Obama and Vice President Biden have a comprehensive plan to invest in alternative and renewable energy, end our addiction to foreign oil, address the global climate crisis and create millions of new jobs."

Energy Independence and Global Warming: 110th Congress Final Staff Report

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming – December 2008

http://globalwarming.house.gov/mediacenter/pressreleases_2008?id=0059#main_content

"Part I of the report addresses the challenges posed by the climate crisis and America's growing energy needs. Part II provides recommendations on a series of "win-win" solutions that will bolster America's energy security while achieving the reductions in global warming pollution needed to save the planet. Part III presents the findings and recommendations resulting from the Select Committee's oversight activities. Part IV discusses international issues, and reviews the findings of the Select Committee Congressional delegations to Greenland and the EU, Brazil, and India."

Investing in the Future: R&D Needs to Meet America's Energy and Climate Challenges

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming - Hearing – September 10, 2008

Investing in the Future - R&D needs to meet America's Energy and Climate Challenges

http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs/pubs?id=0053#main_content

“As we have seen here on Capitol Hill and today’s witnesses from our top universities can attest, young people today are bursting with ideas on how to bring about the green energy revolution.”

Witnesses:

Dr. Susan Hockfield, President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dr. Stephen Forrest, Vice President of Research, University of Michigan
Dr. Jack Fellows, Vice President, University Corporation on Atmospheric Research
Dr. Daniel Kammen, Professor, UC-Berkley

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (Senate Energy Committee)

Energy Priorities for the Next Congress

Remarks at Center for Strategic and International Studies - November 18th, 2008

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=f9032d6a-3f9b-469c-bb64-bee84af7fb22&Month=11&Year=2008&Party=0

“We have just elected a new President, Barack Obama, who campaigned on a strong platform of energy efficiency, energy security, and renewable energy. That gives us the ability to harness his strong interest in energy to an effective bipartisan strategy in Congress. When you can get a combination of White House leadership and bipartisan Congressional engagement, chances of real progress are substantial.”

Ben Lieberman and Jack Spencer

Making Domestic Energy Affordable

The Heritage Foundation - Memo to President-elect Obama - December 8, 2008 – 4 pages

http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/obamamemo_6.pdf

“Your promise to address the nation’s high energy costs resonated soundly with the voters, and your pledge to use safe nuclear power as a key part of our energy mix makes sense. You should not let the temporary decrease in gasoline prices distract you from keeping these promises. If you persevere and follow the right steps to open and use all domestic energy sources, including nuclear power, energy will become more affordable and plentiful for all Americans, and the nation will be less reliant on hostile nations for energy. But you should not undercut these goals by shackling energy with costly restrictions and mandates...”

Investments in Clean Energy and Natural Resources Projects and Programs to Create Green Jobs and to Stimulate the Economy

Senate – Energy Committee – Hearing – December 10, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=f950a2d8-bd94-5d1f-ec07-a93bf518e2e5

Mr. Bracken Hendricks - Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress
Mr. Kevin Book - Senior Analyst and Senior Vice President, Friedman Billings Ramsey & Company, Inc.
Mr. Malcolm Woolf - Director, Maryland Energy Association
Mr. Joe Loper - Vice President of Policy and Research, Alliance to Save Energy
Mr. Steve Hauser - Vice President, GridPoint
Dr. Cassandra Moseley - Institute for Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon
Mr. Mark Limbaugh - Former Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior
Mr. Denis Galvin - Former Deputy Director, National Park Service

Ken Berlin

A Framework for Achieving Energy Security and Arresting Global Warming

Center for American Progress – Report – December 2008 – 34 pages

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/12/pdf/energy_security.pdf

Addressing energy security and arresting climate change will require a transition to a non-carbon based economy and more fuel-efficient vehicles. This will take decades, even with strong measures, so new initiatives will have to be durable enough to withstand political vicissitudes and arguments that regulations should be weakened during economic slowdowns. Because efforts to solve both issues are inextricably intertwined, they must be addressed together, and actions to solve one issue cannot compromise the ability to address the other successfully.

Renewing America: A Blueprint for Economic Recovery

Environment America – Report -November 2008 - 29 pages

http://www.environmentamerica.org/uploads/SO/o9/SOo90pehULc3juLoBFh4Yg/AME_RenewAmerica.pdf

“To revive the American dream, we need to rebuild our economy on a sound foundation—one that puts people back to work, contributes to long-term prosperity, rebuilds our communities, and protects our environment. There is one path to a renewed economy that achieves all of those goals—one that is increasingly recognized by opinion leaders, politicians, investors and workers as our best chance to work our way out of our current economic troubles, while building a stronger, more self-reliant and environmentally responsible America. *It is the path to a clean energy future.*”

IER’s Bold Stimulus Plan: A Roadmap to Improving the Economy and Creating Jobs, All at No Cost to the Taxpayer

Institute for Energy Research – January 27, 2009

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2009/01/27/ier-offers-economic-stimulus-plan-urges-president-obama-to-adopt-historic-change/>

“IER supports government policies that encourage private investment, foster job creation, and provide American consumers access to the vast, proven, affordable energy supplies they own beneath the 2.3 billion acres of government lands not leased for responsible energy production. These enormous taxpayer-owned resources, and the American jobs they would create, have been held hostage by a decades-long government policy of saying, “No, we can’t”... IER’s plan represents the most significant change in government energy policy in more than three decades. We urge the Obama Administration to say, “Yes, we can” to our two-part plan, which begins by embracing the fundamental medical precept: First, Do No Harm.”

Dave Edwards

Putting Energy in the White House

Progressive Policy Institute - Memo to the Next President – January 15, 2008

http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=450020&subsecID=900202&contentID=254867

“Without a transformation of the energy industry, the unchecked American reliance upon fossil fuel will diminish our economy, distort our foreign policy, and further disrupt our natural environment. We can do better -- much better. The United States has the opportunity to be the world’s energy innovation leader, creating a cleaner, more secure, and more prosperous future.”

Stimulus Package and Energy: Creating Green Jobs, Opportunities for All

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming – Hearing – January 15, 2009

http://globalwarming.house.gov/pubs/pubs?id=0062#main_content

The Committee devoted its first hearing of the 111th Congress to creating jobs and stimulating our economy through renewable energy and efficiency programs. The panel included Van Jones, founder of Green for All, an organization promoting green-collar jobs and opportunities for the disadvantaged; Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia; Trevor Houser, an expert on energy markets and climate change; and Denise Bode, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association.

Pietro S. Nivola

Rethinking “Energy Independence”

The Brookings Institution – Study -December 29, 2008, – 12 pages

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/1230_energy_nivola/1230_energy_nivola.pdf

Political leaders repeatedly point out that our current addiction to foreign oil is a matter of national security. The author challenges the assumption that the less oil the U.S. buys from abroad, the more insulated our economy will be from vagaries of the international oil market.

Current Energy Security Challenges

Senate – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – January 8, 2009

http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=a7191f17-ce69-0588-430b-afe1a28d41b8

Dr. Kit Batten - Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

Mr. Eric Schwartz - Member, Energy Security Leadership Council

Ms. Karen Harbert - Executive Vice President & Managing Director, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Dianne Nielson - Energy Advisor, Office of the Governor - Utah

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Daniel Sosland, Derek Murrow, and Samuel Krasnow

Energy Efficiency as Economic Stimulus

Progressive Policy Institute - Memo to the Next President - December 12, 2008

http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=450020&subsecID=900194&contentID=254849

Energy efficiency -- a huge economic category that includes the design and installation of "green" insulation, lighting, building materials, appliances, vehicles, heating-and- cooling systems, and countless other technologies -- fits your economic-stimulus needs ideally, with important additional benefits for the health of our environment and the security of our nation.

Assessment of Achievable Potential from Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Programs in the U.S. (2010-2030)

Electric Power Institute - Web posted January 22, 2009 – 342 pages

http://my.epri.com/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_1630_277_848_43/http%3B/myepri10%3B80/EPRI/DocumentAccess/popup.aspx/000000000001016987

Energy efficiency programs in the United States could realistically reduce the rate of growth for electricity consumption by 22 percent over the next two decades if key barriers can be addressed, according to the analysis. The potential energy savings in 2030 would be 236 billion kilowatt hours, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of 14 New York Cities. However, achieving the ideal would require costly investments as well as political and regulatory support.

Kenneth P. Green and Aparna Mathur

Measuring and Reducing Americans' Indirect Energy Use

AEI Online - Energy and Environment Outlook - December 4, 2008- 6 pages

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.29020/pub_detail.asp

“The focus on direct energy use obscures the fact that Americans have many choices when it comes to reducing their energy and environmental footprint besides cutting back on the direct use of oil, natural gas, and electricity. Those who want to reduce their energy consumption but are unable or unwilling to forego the roomier house or car can cut down on discretionary medical purchases; minimize pharmaceutical waste; cut back on air travel; and replace high-energy foods (beef and refined grain products) with lower-energy foods such as poultry, legumes, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Can we both preserve consumer choice and expand options for energy conservation? Yes, we can.”

David M. Abromowitz

Green Affordable Housing: Within Our Reach

Center for American Progress - December 2008 - 30 pages.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/12/pdf/green_housing.pdf

The incoming Obama administration is poised to join with the 111th Congress on an ambitious agenda of reducing energy consumption, curbing greenhouse gas emissions, and creating a viable green jobs sector. To achieve these goals, one cannot afford to ignore housing, in particular the currently existing affordable housing. Affordable housing, consisting of almost 4.75 million apartments (nearly 14 percent of the nation's 35 million rental units), is federally assisted in some way and thus open to clearly targeted green policies.

Lowering the Cost of Play: Improving Energy Efficiency of Video Game Consoles

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) - Issue Paper - November 2008 - 29 pages.

<http://www.nrdc.org/energy/consoles/files/consoles.pdf>

More than 40 percent of all homes in the United States contain at least one video game console. Video game consoles consumed an estimated 16 billion kilowatt-hours per year -- roughly equal to the annual electricity use of the city of San Diego. This issue paper provides recommendations for users, video game console manufacturers, component suppliers and the software companies that design games for improving the efficiency of video game consoles already in homes as well as future generations of machines.

OIL

Ariel Cohen, Ph.D., and Owen Graham

The Oil-Price Roller Coaster: Global Challenges for the Obama Administration

The Heritage Foundation – Background – December 18, 2008 – 16 pages

http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/bg_2216.pdf

The U.S. should increase pressure on OPEC and non-OPEC countries, which are failing to meet production forecasts, to open access to IOCs while authorizing oil production in ANWR, other promising Arctic areas, and the lower 48 states to expand domestic energy production. Rising oil consumption within key oil-producing states leaves less oil for export, posing a significant constraint on future supply.

Research and Development: DOE Could Enhance the Project Selection Process for Government Oil and Natural Gas Research

GAO – Report -December 29, 2008 - 37 pages

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-09-186>

“A recent GAO report noted important criteria for the Department of Energy (DOE) to consider in evaluating its oil and natural gas R&D efforts—including the likelihood that industry would perform the research without federal funding. The Office of Management and Budget has raised similar concerns. In this context, GAO was asked to review (1) how much U.S. industry has invested in oil and natural gas R&D over the last 10 years, and the current focus of these activities; (2) how DOE's oil and natural gas R&D funding and activities

compare with industry's; and (3) to what extent DOE ensures that its oil and natural gas R&D would not occur without federal funding."

Pervaze A. Sheikh and Adam Vann

Drilling in the Great Lakes: Background and Issues

Congressional Research Service (CRS) - November 11, 2008 - 24 pages

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/112526.pdf> (Tip: copy and paste in your browser)

Drilling for oil and gas in or under the Great Lakes has generated interest among Great Lakes stakeholders, states, and Congress. Some opposed to drilling are concerned about the potential environmental, economic, and public health consequences. They contend that drilling will raise the risks of oil spills, hazardous gas leaks, and pollution that may harm lakeside residents and the Great Lakes ecosystem. Proponents of oil and gas drilling contend that drilling will increase local and regional tax revenues and employment, increase domestic energy production, and not be an environmental problem because of new technologies that lower the risks of oil spills and other accidents.

Phil Davies

How to Save Gas

FRB Minneapolis – The Region – December 2008 – 8 pages

<http://www.minneapolisfed.org/pubs/region/08-12/davies.pdf>

Pricing mechanisms, not fuel-economy standards, offer the best hope for reducing motor fuel consumption.

COAL

The True Cost of Coal

Greenpeace – Report - Web posted December 1, 2008 -92 pages

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/true-cost-coal.pdf>

According to the report, the global cost of coal was at least €360 billion last year alone. The figure arrives from CO2 damage costs, health costs and mining accidents. Coal burning has existed for centuries, and its use as a fuel has been recorded since the 1100s. It powered the Industrial Revolution, changing the course of first Britain, and then the world, in the process. In the U.S., the first coal-fired power plant opened on the shores of the lower East River in New York City in September 1882. Today, coal is used to produce nearly 40% of the world's electricity. However, burning coal is one of the most harmful practices on the planet.

The Hidden Costs of Clean Coal: The Environmental and Human Disaster of Longwall Mining

Center for Public Integrity - January 13, 2009

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/longwall/>

Longwall mining is a highly productive underground process employed to quickly and cheaply extract coal, but the practice comes with a steep environmental price, as documented in a year-long investigation by the Center for Public Integrity. The report turns a spotlight on a devastating mining method that most Americans outside northern Appalachia have never heard of. An estimated 10 percent of all U.S. electricity now depends on coal from longwall mining, which has grown over the years in Appalachia and in the states of Illinois, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Daniel J. Weiss, Nick Kong, Sam Schiller, Alexandra Kougentakis

The Clean Coal Smoke Screen

Center for American Progress – Analysis - December 22, 2008 – 5 pages

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/12/clean_coal.html

“Despite the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity's attempts to convince Americans that “clean coal” is the solution to global warming, a CAP analysis determined that ACCCE's companies spend relatively few dollars conducting research on carbon capture and storage, the most promising clean coal technology to reduce global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants. The coal and utility industries have spent millions of dollars to oppose mandatory reductions in global warming pollution until CCS is commercialized. Yet their paltry CCS research investment demonstrates that the ads and other public clean coal activities are merely designed to delay global warming solutions without suffering a public relations black eye.”

James T. Bartis et al.

Producing Liquid Fuels from Coal: Prospects and Policy Issues

RAND Corporation – Monograph - January 2009 – 199 pages

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG754.pdf

The federal government can spark the creation of a commercially competitive coal-to-liquids industry by fostering early development of plants that would produce transportation fuels from coal, according to the study. It finds that a commercially competitive U.S. coal-to-liquids industry could produce as much as three million barrels of high-quality liquid fuels per day by 2030, an amount equivalent to 15 percent of current U.S. oil demand.

Importing Pollution: Coals's Threat to Climate Policy in the U.S. Northeast

Union of Concerned Scientists - December 2008 – 44 pages

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_energy/importing-pollution_report.pdf

The Northeast's cap-and-trade system for global warming pollution will be compromised unless utilities are prevented from importing additional coal-fired electricity, according to the report. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which applies to power plants in 10 Northeastern states, does not preclude the utilities that supply electricity to Northeast homes and businesses from buying more electricity from coal-fired power plants outside the region. That could increase the carbon dioxide emissions from those plants outside the region, offsetting emissions reductions under RGGI.

NUCLEAR

Jack Spencer and Daniella Markheim

Protectionism Won't Fuel a Nuclear Renaissance

The Heritage Foundation – Background – December 16, 2008 – 8 pages

http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/bg_2221.pdf

Expansion of nuclear power will result in increased demand for uranium. Growing fuel markets will create the environment that can sustain new enrichment capacity; artificially protecting domestic suppliers will not. The U.S. needs a domestic supplier of enriched uranium for national security purposes. The U.S. and Russia must continue to convert Russian weapons-grade uranium for use in peaceful power reactors.

Charles D. Ferguson and Michelle M. Smith

Prime Numbers: The Nuclear Option

Foreign Policy – Article - January/February 2009

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4586

“After a decades-long slowdown, nuclear power once again dominates global energy debate. Dozens of countries are vying to join the nuclear power club, and hundreds of new reactors are on the drawing board. But nuclear energy will not be the miracle cure for energy dependence or global warming that its proponents promise.”

Craig A. Severance

Business Risks and Costs of New Nuclear Power

Climate Progress – Study – January 5, 2009 - 37 pages

<http://climateprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/nuclear-costs-2009.pdf>

Several U.S. utilities are now advancing proposals for a new generation of nuclear power plants. Though massive cost overruns and construction delays in the 1970's and 1980's caused U.S. utilities to cancel over 130 nuclear plant orders, the nuclear industry is now hoping to ride a wave of concern over global warming. Can new nuclear power help the U.S. electric power industry cut greenhouse gas emissions, at a reasonable cost?

Bill Magwood and Mark Ribbing

America's Nuclear Waste and What to Do With It

Progressive Policy Institute - Memo to the Next President - November 7, 2008

http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=450020&subsecID=900194&contentID=254827

A candid discussion is needed -- within your new administration and in the country as a whole -- about nuclear energy, a non-climate-changing power source that is actually capable of generating significant amounts of energy in the near term. The key to making nuclear energy a more viable alternative is the adoption of advanced spent-fuel recycling techniques to deal with one of nuclear power's most vexing problems -- the presence of radioactive waste material.

Sen. Evan Bayh

Creating a Nuclear-Fuel Bank

Progressive Policy Institute - Memo to the Next President - December 5, 2008

http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=450020&subsecID=900194&contentID=254843

How do we respond to valid and growing demands for civilian nuclear energy worldwide without permitting more countries to acquire nuclear weapons? The answer, in my view, is to set up an international nuclear-fuel bank that would supply fuel to any country that agrees not to develop its own enriching and reprocessing facilities.

Demonstration of the Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel from Decommissioned Nuclear Power Reactor Sites

Department of Energy - Report to Congress - December 2008 – 26 pages

http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/info_library/program_docs/ES_Interim_Storage_Report_120108.pdf

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s report discusses the status of the commercial spent nuclear fuel (SNF) inventory in the United States, at both decommissioned and operating commercial nuclear power reactor sites. It also summarizes the contractual arrangement the Government and utilities have under the Standard Contract for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste (10 CFR Part 961), related litigation, and the financial liabilities resulting from the Department's delay in performance under these contracts. Further, the report identifies legislative changes and actions that would be necessary for the Department to develop an interim storage facility and demonstration program for commercial SNF from the decommissioned reactor sites.

RENEWABLES

Dustin Mulvaney et al.

Toward a Just and Sustainable Solar Energy Industry

Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition January 14, 2009 – 48 pages

[http://www.etoxics.org/site/DocServer/Silicon_Valley_Toxics_Coalition -
Toward a Just and Sust.pdf?docID=821](http://www.etoxics.org/site/DocServer/Silicon_Valley_Toxics_Coalition_-_Toward_a_Just_and_Sust.pdf?docID=821)

The report documents and analyzes the environmental and health hazards of solar panel systems in a supposed “win-win” solution to global warming. It covers the health and safety concerns as well as recommendations for building a just and sustainable solar energy industry.

Wind Energy Grows by Record 8,300 Mw in 2008

American Wind Energy Association - January 27, 2009 –

http://www.awea.org/newsroom/releases/wind_energy_growth2008_27Jan09.html

The U.S. wind energy industry shattered all previous records in 2008 by installing 8,358 megawatts (MW) of new generating capacity, enough to serve over 2 million homes, reports the study. The massive growth in 2008 swelled the nation’s total wind power generating capacity by 50% and channeled an investment of some \$17 billion into the economy, positioning wind power as one of the leading sources of new power generation in the country today along with natural gas. At year’s end, however, financing for new projects and orders for turbine components slowed to a trickle and layoffs began to hit the wind turbine manufacturing sector.

Wind Energy for a New Era

American Wind Energy Association – November 2008 – 24 pages

http://www.newwindagenda.org/documents/Wind_Agenda_Report.pdf

Developed for the new President and Congress, Wind Energy for a New Era presents the wind energy industry’s federal policy agenda. An overview of the recommendations as well as the full report are available.

ELECTRICITY

Electric Power Industry 2007: Year in Review

Energy Information Administration - January 21, 2009

http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epa/epa_sum.html

In 2007, average retail electricity prices increased 2.6 percent from 8.9 to 9.1 cents per kilowatthour (kWh). This followed a 3-year period during which average fossil fuel prices for electricity generation increased a cumulative 30.2 percent. As fuel prices increased 30.2 percent, the National average retail price of electricity increased 17.0 percent from 7.6 cents per kWh in 2004 to 8.9 cents per kWh in 2006. Fossil fuel prices increased an additional 7.0 percent in 2007, contributing to the 2.6 percent average retail electricity rate increase.

Kit Batten, Kari Manlove

Identifying Hurdles to Renewable Electricity Transmission

Center for American Progress – Report - December 18, 2008 – 8pages

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/12/pdf/renewable_transmission.pdf

The electricity grid in the United States is often heralded as one of the world's first great technological achievements in modern history. The grid pioneered national access to electricity and spurred prosperity, and it now represents a central piece of economic and societal infrastructure. But nearly a century after grid construction began, no major updates have occurred. The current grid configuration cannot handle the growth in electricity demand expected over the next few decades unless we act quickly to modernize it. Our electricity grid is an integral but often overlooked element in the shift to a low-carbon economy. This report seeks to highlight the multiple challenges and opportunities for action to vastly increase our nation's renewable energy generation and connect this clean energy to the grid via advanced electrical transmission construction.

Joy Moses

Affordable Home Energy

Center for American Progress – Report - December 2008 - 46 pages

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/12/pdf/liheap.pdf>

“It is imperative that Americans prioritize a policy agenda that solves the problem of unaffordable home energy for low-income households—health, safety, and other relevant concerns dictate this course of action.” The author offers recommendations to help low-income households with their energy costs.

Sterling Burnett and Amanda Berg

Lights Out for Thomas Edison

National Center for Policy Analysis - Web posted January 11, 2009

<http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba/ba637/>

Although touted by many as the smart energy choice, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are not suitable for many common uses and should not be required by the government, according to the report. The authors argue: “For many uses, compact fluorescent bulbs may be more costly and troublesome than they’re worth.” The report concludes that despite manufacturer claims, many CFLs don’t come close to lasting the 10,000 hours they are supposed to last. In addition, CFLs also contain potentially toxic mercury, therefore, CFL disposal and breakage presents numerous health and environmental concerns.

CARBON EMISSIONS

Christopher Flavin

Low-Carbon Energy: A Roadmap

Worldwatch Institute - January 6, 2009 – 52 pages

<http://www.worldwatch.org/press/prerelease/EWP178.pdf>

New technologies will permit rapid de-carbonization of the world energy economy in the next two decades, according to the report. These new energy sources will make it possible to retire hundreds of coal-fired power plants that now provide 40 percent of the world's power by 2030, eliminating up to one-third of global carbon dioxide emissions while creating millions of new jobs. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels will diminish the climate crisis and will also act as an agent of recovery for an ailing global economy. Rebuilding the global energy system has the potential to create thousands of new businesses and millions of new jobs.

David W. Kreutzer, Ph.D., and Karen A. Campbell, Ph.D.

CO2-Emission Cuts: The Economic Costs of the EPA's ANPR Regulations

The Heritage Foundation - Center for Data Analysis – Report - 29 October 2008 – 16 pages

http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/CDA_08-10.pdf

The EPA's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) proposes an unprecedented expansion of federal ability to regulate CO₂ emissions. Its limits on CO₂ emissions would impose significant costs on virtually the entire American economy. Even under a fairly optimistic set of assumptions, the economic impact of the ANPR is likely to be serious for the job market, household budgets, and the economy overall.